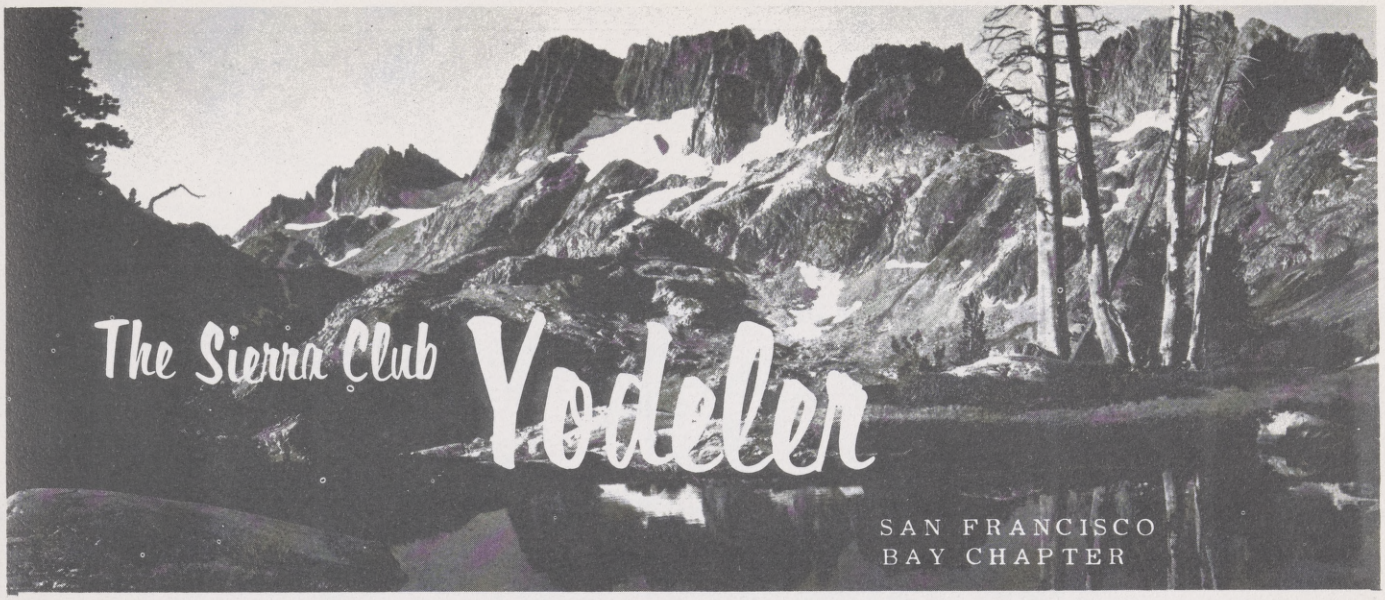

VOLUME XIX FEBRUARY 4, 1957 NUMBER 3

CONSERVATION AT SACRAMENTO

About 6000 bills were introduced at the January session of the State Legislature and now the law-makers are home again for six weeks and are giving all these bills a close, wise and comprehensive study ... we hope.

Many of these bills are on matter affecting conservation. Our members in the Mother Lode Chapter have been working on reading fifty of these, of which we select a few of the most important discussed at the January meeting of the Sierra Club Conservation Committee. These need action and support from all our members. First in State-wide importance is the Public Outdoor Recreation Act (A. B. 32) introduced by Rep. Lloyd W. Lowrey, with proper appropriation to set it up. This is really a Scenic Resources Review for California, an inventory of all facilities for outdoor recreation which we have now or are likely to need in the future to meet the demands of more and more people for more and more outdoor fun. The bill is based on a "Prospectus" issued in December which begins "There is no integrated plan for public outdoor recreation..." and goes on to list the needs for parks, beaches, woods and water for hunters, campers, wildlife and wilderness lovers. One phrase we like especially ... "To maintain areas of peace, quiet and respectability..." How many of our once beautiful places are no longer worthy of respect? And how many more may soon be cheapened and destroyed? The bill provides for planning by the leaders of the various State Divisions which deal with outdoor life, with assistance from technical experts and from organizations such as sportsmens' associations, garden clubs, and wilderness preservation societies. That is where we come in, and the Sierra Club has heartily endorsed the principle behind this bill which gives us something positive to work for in our own State. Write to Representative Lowrey at the Assembly offices at Sacramento telling him of your approval of such planning and to your own representative asking his cooperation.

Enlargement of Tamalpais State Park in Marin County is one of the most urgent of the bills. (A. B. 325). Its importance goes far beyond the boundary of the local Chapter. The State Park is only a small part of a unique scenic area which is famous throughout the State. Rapid development of the land around it shows that we must not wait until the present State Park Five Year Plan is completed before getting

(Continued Page 2)

If there are any shortcomings in this Yodeler do not blame our editor, Barbara Tilden. She has been slightly ill and forced to miss an issue for the first time in her career.

I was also ill enough to miss work (never took a Monday off before), recovering enough to show up for The Yodeler tonight. (This is not entirely co-incidental, as we were both on the same weekend trip). Anyway, on arrival I found myself Yodeleditor for the evening and am doing my best to produce an acceptable issue with the help of the remaining staff.

. . . Howard Frohlich
Yodeleditor pro-tem

ADVENTURE ON WATER

At the East Bay Dinner on Wednesday, Feb. 13 Otis Marston will take us via slides down the fast water of the Colorado through the Grand Canyon in motor boats. Technique, risks and safety measures will be discussed. Mr. Marston who is quite an authority on the history of the Colorado will also tell us of some legends. It should be a very exciting adventure. Join us at the Whittier School cafeteria in Berkeley at 6:30 for dinner or 7:30 for the program.

Phone Betty Franklin at OLympic 5-5113 by 10:00 p. m. Monday, February 11th for dinner reservations.

SIERRA CLUB YODELER

A semi-monthly publication of the San Francisco Bay Chapter. Address all communications to: Yodeleditor, Sierra Club, 1050 Mills Tower, San Francisco 4.

Subscription $1.00
Advertising . . . . .50 per ad

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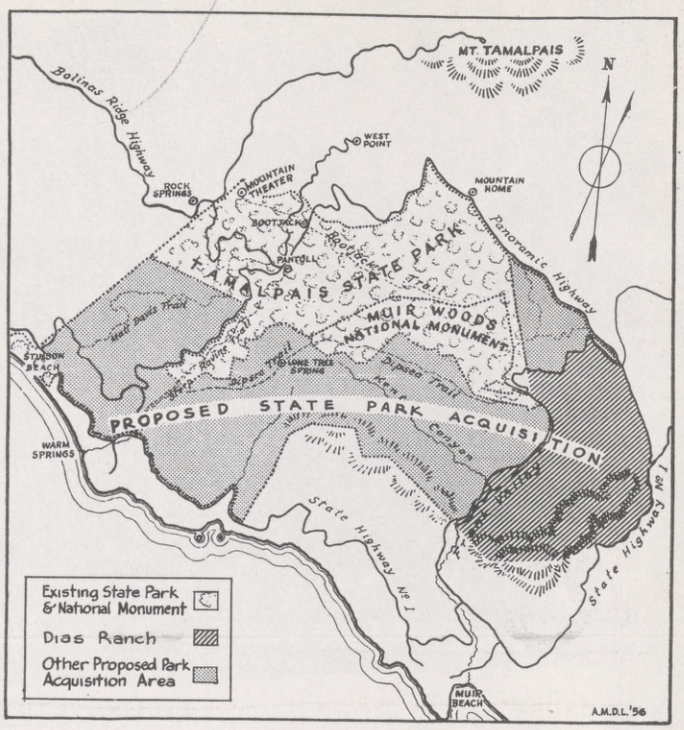
(Natural Science Sec.)

NEXT DEADLINE: Monday, February 18

Volume XIX, No. 3 February 4, 1957



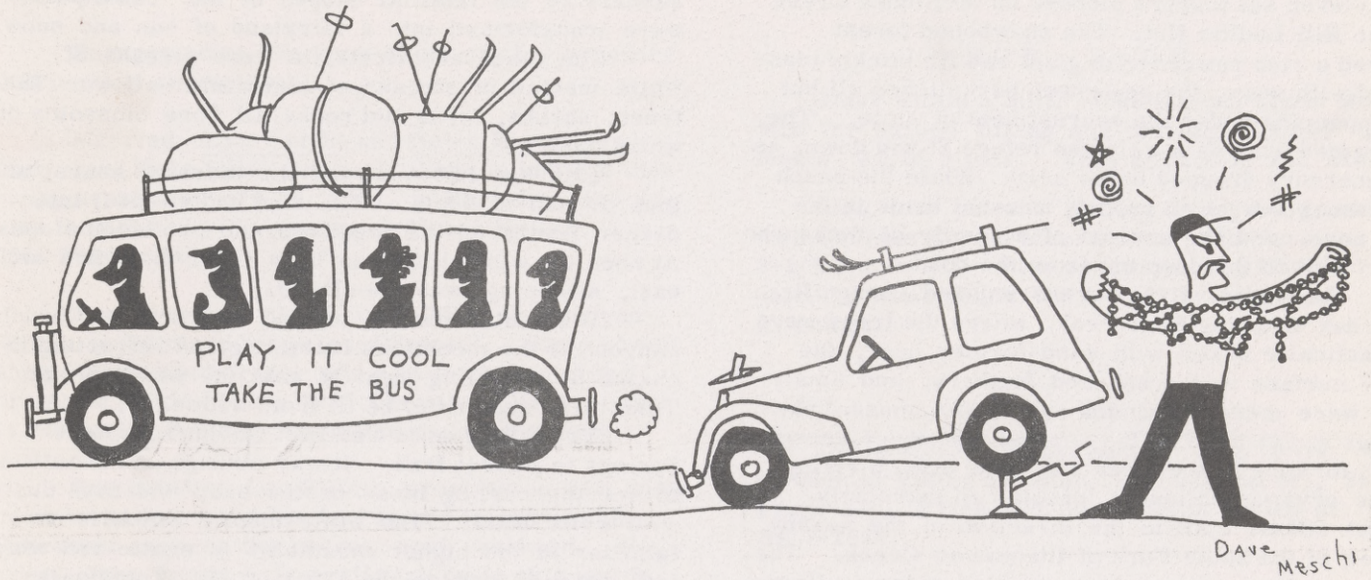
(Continued from Page 1)
funds for the purchase of land in Frank Valley below Muir Woods. The State Park Commission is favorable to further acquisition if money can be found. Rep. Richard H. McCollister of San Anselmo has introduced a bill calling for $700,000 emergency appropriation from State Park funds. This must have heavy support if it is to pass. Will you make a special effort to tell your own Assemblyman that this bill is worthy of his support, and Mr. McCollister would like to hear from you, too. Southern members' support especially needed.

There is a bill to abolish the Winter Park Authority, (Samuel R. Geddes) in the Assembly. It is the final step necessary to free San Jacinto State Park from the threat of the tramway. Your representative should know about this.

A serious threat to good wildlife management comes from a group of bills which would curb the powers of the Fish and Game Commission or even destroy it. Last fall the Commission allowed a statewide "either sex" deer hunt for the first time. Confusion due to inexperience at that time led to much trouble and many protests, but this can be corrected and the Commission should be supported in its efforts to equalize the deer population with its winter food supply. The "either sex" hunt during the last few days of the season raised the kill from 70,000 to over 100,000 deer but hunters should be taking three times that many deer yearly if the herds are to remain healthy. The choice is between shooting the deer or seeing them die of starvation in winter. We have removed the natural predators forever and should now do some clear, scientific thinking on control of our exploding deer population. We should not permit them to ruin their own ranges in their efforts to get the last mouthful of twigs. The Sierra Club has expressed opposition to any changes which curtail the powers of the Fish and Game Commission to manage wildlife. If there is need for action on these bills you will hear more about them. Meanwhile, there is a great deal of public education needed on the subject of proper game management. Read Durward Allen's book "Our Wildlife Legacy" for facts to use as ammunition in this campaign.

. . . CMC

Looking Down Frank Valley Photo by Phil Green



NEXT TIME TAKE THE BUS TO CLAIR TAPPAAN

During the height of the ski season the Lodge is generally sold out, and even at off-season times it is not unusual to find substantial numbers of members at the lodge. Of course the primary causes of this are the good fellowship to be found there and the fact that it is within their means to afford it. In other words, it is a wonderful value.

What surprises me, however, is that these same value-conscious people seem to overlook the true value of our chartered bus. Most drivers, I'm afraid, aren't aware of the true costs of operating their cars as most are charging the same for passengers as was the custom ten and more years ago. Costs of car operating have actually increased disproportionately in that time and many industries are now computing mileage at or near 10 cents per mile. Even cars which are used for extensive traveling in industry cost better than seven cents a mile to operate -- a rate which the average car owner could never attain.

When you apply these operating costs to the trip to Norden, at approximately 400 miles round trip, it is easy to see that it costs the driver somewhere near thirty to forty dollars per trip. Assuming that the average car carried four passengers and the driver, on equal shares, the least charge should be $6.00, which is the fare on our chartered bus.

The costs being equal, then, the real advantage of the bus becomes quite plain through such factors as unusual wear and tear, parking, digging in and out, and loss of ski time, putting on and taking off chains, worry about freezing, driving hazards, etc. It can be easily demonstrated that the harried driver is more prone to accidents and consequently too many of our members are sacrificing safety for speed and personal convenience.

I realize that many drivers and passengers will argue that the figures used above include such fixed costs as depreciation, taxes, license fees, etc., but I contend that these costs are largely offset by the unusual wear and tear and extra costs which high mountain snow driving entails. A parked car can easily suffer damage to its finish from the snow and ice thrown by a rotary, for instance. How many consider the costs of chains, anti-freeze, etc., in computing their costs? A simple thing like a broken chain link can do severe damage like puncturing the gas tank. (It happened to me!) I'm afraid most drivers and passengers don't take these things into account.

As it develops, then, they will be surprised to learn that most drivers are purely and simply subsidizing the skiing activities of their passengers.

This marks our fifth year of bus operation and in that time there has been a gradual acceptance of its worth. Unfortunately, it operates most of the time with only nominal patronage and usually serves only as a secondary source of transportation. I had originally anticipated that as this service become known, we would soon need to provide an expanded service. So far, I have been mistaken on that score.

. . . J. E. Mulholland

SKIING IN A WINTER WONDERLAND

It was through exceedingly deep, dry powder that eleven ski tourers plodded up McKinney Creek to the Bill Ludlow Hut. The snowbound forest proved a rich reward with giant red fir thickly plastered with snow, the pea green bark-lichen all but disappearing under the encrustment of white. The A-framed hut was a welcome refuge at sun down, as the mercury dropped below zero. While the bunch was doing away with supper, unusual thuds in the loft announced the arrival of a family of three who had followed the deep rut from the road.

On Sunday, five tourers enjoyed a magnificent day climbing Ellis Peak, where the trees were fantastically caked with wind-formed hoar, the snow surface was fresh and feathery, and small firs were merely rounded cones. An unusual phenomenon was seen on the summit where ice crystals were forming in the clear air. The sun, striking these crystals obliquely, created an extremely bright diffuse spot in the direction of the nearby valley of the South Fork of Blackwood Creek. The descent along a steep tree studded ridge to Homewood, on Lake Tahoe, was a memorable deep powder run.

. . . Bob Frenkel

SIERRA CLUB
RIVER TOURING SECTION

REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, February 12th at 8:00 P.M.
Lake Merritt Boat House

SPECIAL ATTRACTION: Movies of the Arkansas River Races of 1956, both Slalom and Down River, through the courtesy of FibArk Boat Races, Inc., of Salida.

Last minute change of address or additions for the roster, contact John Landon, Secretary, 3991 Forest Avenue, Oakland. {KE 3-2194.

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

FROM FAR-AWAY PLACES

Joanne Taylor is principal of a school run primarily for children of Kaiser Engineers at Jamshedpur, Bihar, (near Calcutta) India. She is living with Rudy and Lois Fink and would be glad to hear from any of the Sierra Club friends.

KING FOR A FEW HOURS

For a few dazzling hours on the afternoon of January 28 the familiar slopes of Mt. Tamalpais were transformed into a fairyland of sun and snow.

The roads and firetrails were streaks of white instead of streaks of black and yellow. The trees, shrubs, ferns and rocks all bore blossoms of white snow.

This had fallen during the morning hours, an inch or two in depth. The wind had swept it into deeper layers on the meadows and protected slopes. At noon the wind shifted to blow from the north and east, sweeping away the clouds.

The winter sun now probed the woods and brushy canyons of the mountains reflecting and refracting in chains of sparkling light so that the whole of Mt. Tamalpais seemed to be lit from within.

We walked down Cataract Gulch from Rock Springs to Laurel Dell. It was strange and beautiful to see the curling moss on the oaks and bays dusted with white snow. The white mantle which is so familiar in the higher mountains is exotic and magical when draped on the flora of Mt. Tamalpais. Every long familiar thing we looked at - the mossy rocks, the pools, the red madrones and green bays, the young firs and old slab bridge - looked different. We were filled with a strange excitement. It was like finding a new love.

But it was only make-believe. Very quickly the sun melted the snow on the tree tops, then below and the gusty wind shook showers into the glens and dells.

The magic cloak had nearly disappeared by nightfall, leaving only the familiar wetness of a winter dusk of Tamalpais.

. . . George Dusheck

RIDES AVAILABLE TO DODGE RIDGE

Anyone in the Sierra Club who is interested in a ride for ski trips to Dodge Ridge on Thursdays may contact: Maxine R. Watkins
7 Harold Drive
Moraga, California Drake 6-5232

SOME GOOD NEWS!

Those planning summer vacations may be interested to know there is a new trail into the Northern Yosemite Park Area. The trail starts at Twin Lakes near Bridgeport and enters the park near Peeler Lake.

The area is served by a pack station at Upper Twin Lakes.

For information regarding stock, write:
Chat Roberts
Coleville, California

MOUNTAINEARS HEAR

Well, we finally have some vital statistics for the column:

Engagements: We know about one but by policy this news is unprintable.

Married: Lyn Wright and Helen Kemnitzer. They want their fellow knap-climbers to know of this happy event, January 26, 1957, in Berkeley, and advise they are now bivouacing at Mouse Hollow, 2312 Parker Street

New Arrivals: On January 20th, Jerry Lynn Short--to Odie and Irene (ex-Dermer). Some of you should remember Irene, who was in charge of the dramatic portion of the 1955 Christmas Party. She is now living South of New Orleans, we are told.

Our printer, Lou Elliott, provides us with some news by having taken his family and friends to his Pinecrest cabin on the recent, cold, weekend. His guest, John Bombay, is really taking to skis and is pretty good after only 5 days on the boards. Guest Ann Barnett came skiing down a small hill, and when asked how old she was, answered in one breath, "three and a half and I skied last year, too!"

We're shorthanded tonight, so I'll have to quit this column and try to get started on make-up and format.

. . . H F

IT'S PARTY TIME, KNAPSACKERS!

Looking forward to this year's knapsacking season? Let's get in the mood at the reunion and start-of-season party to be held at Sigmund Stern Grove, San Francisco, Saturday, March 2, 1957. Preparations are already in full swing for a delicious dinner, folk dancing and other entertainment. There will also be a preview of the coming attractions -- announcement of this summer's trips. Tickets ($1 each) are available from:

Oscar Ortiz	ATwater 2-1457
Barbara Schill	JOrdan 7-8877
Chris Ingersoll	WEst 1-6528
Dick Monges	THornwall 3-2444
Walt Oppenheimer	OVerland 1-5536

Potential knapsackers are most welcome, too. Reserve the date now ! !

WANTED FOLDBOAT. Also sail if available. Call Everett Dempster at CLifford 4-2018.

F O R S A L E

Glove within a mitt. The famous Myro Muff Mitt for skiing, hiking and driving. Ladies' and men's $5.00 a pair. Very attractive and useful.

Also, two pairs of skating boots, hand-made with German Henkel steel blades. Black, sizes 8-1/2 and 9-1/2. Fine condition.... $17.50 a pair. Please phone WA 1-7135 evenings or mornings.

F O R S A L E

Men's $50 Henke ski boots. Size 13-14. May be seen at Viking Ski Shop, 1874 Market St., San Francisco. Price $25.00. Phyllis Sosich at BA 1-1864.

F O R S A L E

Henke Ski Boots (Stein Erikson's Seelos-Slalom), Lady's Size 6, narrow. Almost new. Call Betsy Bade, TH 8-7524, or write to 2853 Shasta Road, Berkeley 8.

F O R S A L E

For the serious-minded photographer looking for the best at a real bargain: Latest Model Ziess Contax III A, F 2 Sonnar Lens, with case and flash gun. $190.00 - Call HIgate 4-2055.

* *

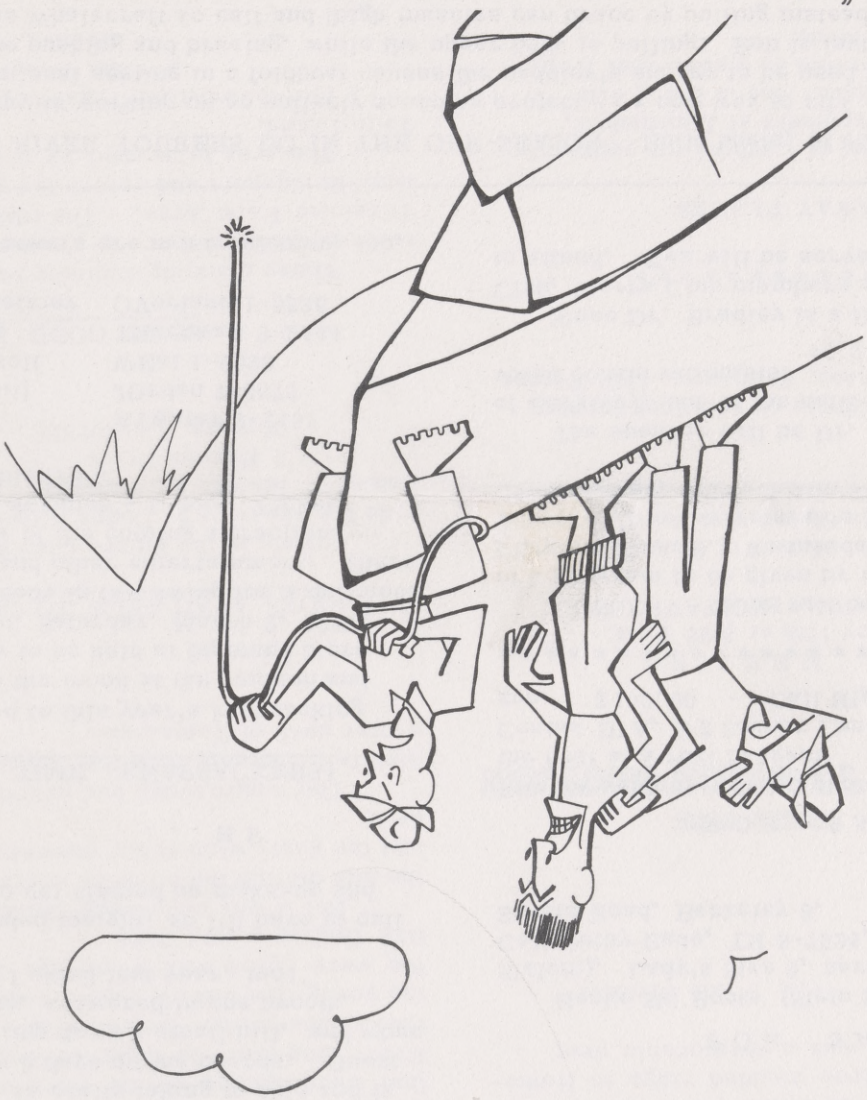
CONSERVATION will be the featured subject of a program to be given by La Puerta de Oro Chapter, D. A. R., Wednesday, February 13th at 2:00 p. m., at the Veteran's Memorial Building, Civic Center, S. F., Room 308.

The speaker will be Dr. Harold C. Bradley, Sr., of Berkeley, one of the nation's most noted and devoted conservationists.

Since Dr. Bradley is a Director of the Sierra Club, Sierra Club members are cordially invited to attend. Tea will be served after the program.

WHAT DO RIVER TOURERS DO IN THE OFF-SEASON? Build boats, of course!

Bob Gray is working on an unlikely sounding project -- a new way to sit! He claims that conventional seating in a foldboat causes the paddler's energy to be used inefficiently: the legs are pushing and bracing, while the upper body is pulling. Bob is installing leg rests on his Whalecraft so calf and thigh muscles can brace by pulling instead of pushing. Paddling then involves just one continuous pull from head to foot. The supports should also help to get some turning effect from "body english" when maneuvering. The system feels great on the basement floor, but isn't ready for the water yet. . . . RAG



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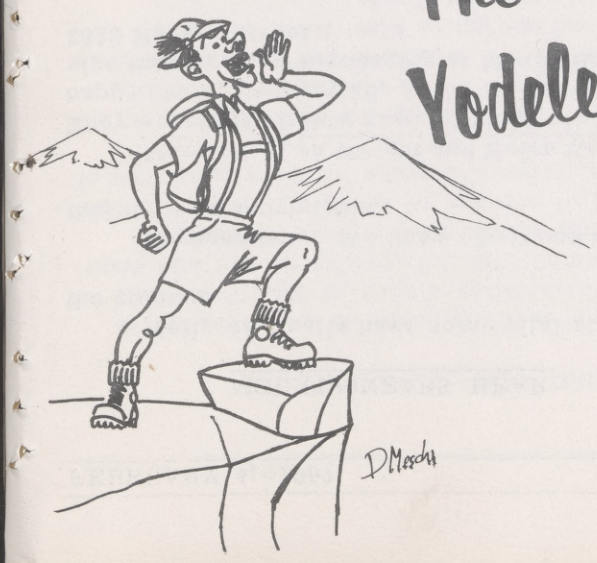

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